

27 FEB 274AD

or 27 Feb 272

Constantine the Great was
born

The dedication of the new temple to the Sun which Aurelian built in northern part of Rome, near the Mausoleum of Augustus. The temple contained extravagant fittings, which included jewel-encrusted robes & other materials stripped from the Temple of Bel at Palmyra. The cult of SOL INVICTUS (the Unconquered Sun) was popular in the Roman army, and in the eastern provinces, and Aurelian may have built the temple not only through

a sense of personal devotion but also as a
common focus for the desperate peoples of the
empire

27 FEB 274 AD

CONSTANTINE THE GREAT
WAS BORN

274

1912 Dates J-BK

Aurelian defeated and captured
PETRICUS at CHALONS.

The Franks, Spain, & Britain
Are reduced to obedience

274

Fall of the Gallic empire.

274 Summer

Aurelian intended to suppress the Gallic empire in the west.

His forces won a resounding victory at the battle of Châlons-sur-Marne in summer of 274, and the last Gallic emperor, Tetricus surrendered.

His life was spared. He was taken to Rome to appear along with Zenobia in the magnificent triumph celebrated by Aurelian later in 274.

27 FEB ~~27AD~~ 274AD

CONSTANTINE THE GREAT
WAS BORN

Persia: Death of Sapor
Accession of VARKANES I.

Aurelian prepared a
Persian expedition.

Tetricus & his son were together at Trier early in 274, when Aurelian marched against them. The forces of the Gallic empire took the field to oppose him, but in a hard fought battle at Châlons-sur-Marne Aurelian's Army gained the upper hand. Tetricus & his son surrendered and the breakaway provinces of Britain.

Saul and the two Germanics were reunited with the rest of the Roman Empire.

Aurelian did not execute Tetricus but gave him a senior administrative position in southern Italy (governor of LUCAANIA) where he lived into old age. His son too was pardoned, and conferred in his senatorial rank. Aurelian's policy was clearly one of pacification rather than repression; the provinces were welcomed.

Autumn of 274

the Roman empire was finally reunited and Aurelian could with some justice assume the title 'Restitutor Orbis', 'Restorer of the World'!

But there was a crisis in the imperial currency. The quality of the silver coinage had declined sharply since 268, undermining confidence in the money economy itself. Aurelian endeavoured to rectify matters by bringing in the old debased currency and issuing new reformed coins with higher

silver content. This may have been the move
which triggered a serious revolt by the moneyers
at Rome, led by FELICISSIMUS, controller of the
mint. Accused perhaps of embezzling the silver
and debasing the coins for their own profit, the
rebel took refuge on the CAELIAN HILL. In the
fighting which followed, as many as 7000
soldiers were killed.

274 (autumn)

Zenobia was the star exhibit
at Aurelian's triumph at Rome.
She lived out her days in honorable
confinement in a villa at TIVOLI